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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 23
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 26 June 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement made by Mr. Jorge Enrique Taiana, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina, on 18 June 2009, at the meeting of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the question of the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23.

(*Signed*) Diego **Limeres**
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement made by Mr. Jorge É. Taiana, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples concerning the Question of the Malvinas Islands (New York, 18 June 2009)

Allow me to begin by saying how pleased my delegation is to see you presiding, once more, over this Special Committee on decolonization, an organ that has special meaning and relevance for our country.

I should also like to express to the Committee and to the Secretariat our appreciation for what they are doing to achieve the noble goal of eradicating colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

The noble mandate which was conferred upon this organ at the time of its inception is to review the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, namely, General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and it is our common concern.

This task should be conducted on a case-by-case basis, with the intelligence and promptness that each one demands.

It seems ironic that, whilst in other spheres on the international stage countries are striving to find ways to reach agreed solutions to the challenges of the times — the international financial crisis, climate change, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, poverty and exclusion — this important Committee's noble efforts to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, should continue to be thwarted, notwithstanding the fact that, back in 1960, the overwhelming majority of nations, stood up to protest the perpetuation of such an anachronism.

In the case of the Malvinas Islands, the General Assembly interpreted and applied resolution 1514 (XV) through resolution 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965. The latter reiterated the pledge to put an end to colonialism in all its forms, one of which, it specifically stated, covered the case of the Malvinas Islands. It also recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom and invited the two countries to negotiate a peaceful solution to the dispute, bearing in mind the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands.

That resolution was adopted by a vote of 94 to none, with 14 abstentions. The United Kingdom did not vote against it, but merely abstained. In 1966, the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom embarked on a negotiating process that lasted until 1982 but failed to attain the goal set by the United Nations.

The inevitable swings in history, the differences of eras, of political times, of actors on each side of this dispute have not altered a fundamental fact: the solid and permanent protest of Argentine Governments since 1833, without distinction, at

what was a manifest eviction of the Argentine authorities and population present on the Islands.

That land was under Argentine sovereignty and was being peacefully and uninterruptedly ruled by Argentine authorities when it was seized, in 1833, by the United Kingdom, a country with which the Argentine Government at the time had friendly relations. The United Kingdom thus fractured the political unity and territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic; its continued occupation of the Islands was contrary to a fundamental principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1514 (XV), the guiding instrument in the decolonization process.

My country never consented to that act of usurpation, which was consolidated later with the implantation of a foreign population and the systematic ban on continental Argentines settling or owning lands in the Islands.

It is hard to think of a more flagrant example of a violation of rights in a single case than that of the illegal occupation of the Malvinas, South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands by the United Kingdom.

I do not intend once more to list the historical facts, of which this Committee is well aware; they are summarized in document A/AC.109/106, dated 13 November 1964. I would rather reiterate that this case has specific features that prevent any comparison with other colonial cases. This has been thus recognized, unquestionably, by the Committee itself.

As I said a moment ago, the population of the Malvinas Islands was expelled by a colonial power that proceeded to transplant its own population onto the usurped land, a population that, in a situation of military protection, embarked on a life isolated from the continent by virtue of a "cordon sanitaire" policy that prevented the expelled Argentines from returning to the land that had been illegitimately seized by the occupying colonial power.

Such a population could never be considered to be subjugated or subject to a colonial power — although millions of people in the Americas, Africa and Asia definitely were. That population was both the instrument and the outcome of an act of usurpation carried out by a colonial power.

As the Argentine Government remarked in its declaration of 18 February 1985, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and distributed as a document of the fortieth session of the General Assembly, the United Kingdom itself ratified the British nature of the Islands' population — as though it had the right to apply legislation in Argentine territory — when the British parliament passed the British Nationality Act in 1983. To claim that the principle of self-determination should apply to that population would be a flagrant distortion of logic, justice, law and history.

The United Kingdom calls for the application of the principle of self-determination, while, at the same time, refusing to resume negotiations on sovereignty with the Argentine Republic, thus ignoring the international community's explicit and repeated mandate, as contained in the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the Organization of American States and many regional and biregional forums for dialogue and cooperation.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland alleges that it will agree to resume negotiations with the Argentine Republic only if the inhabitants of the Islands so wish, ignoring the will of the Member States and unilaterally, without consultation, introducing a precondition not contained in any of this Organization's resolutions on the subject. The United Kingdom thus seeks to take advantage of resolution 1514 (XV), twisting its interpretation by refusing to acknowledge that the principle of territorial integrity applies to the question of the Malvinas Islands. In this way, the United Kingdom is distorting the primary goal of resolution 1514 (XV), which is none other than to put an end to colonial situations, not to perpetuate them.

That is why United Nations resolutions on the subject point to the need to take due account of the "interests" of the inhabitants of the Islands. In this regard, I would note that the Argentine Constitution goes even further, referring to the respect for the way of life of the inhabitants of the Islands.

In this specific case, by making resumption of negotiations on sovereignty conditional upon the wishes of the inhabitants of the islands the United Kingdom is simply trying to evade the United Nations call for a resumption of negotiations aimed at finding a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Let there be no doubt about one thing. Argentina's commitment to, and support for, the right to self-determination is unwavering and permanent; self-determination is a fundamental right to which all peoples subjected to foreign colonial domination are entitled. The Argentine nation itself was once a colony and it fought for its freedom and independence with the same drive and resolve with which it now supports the guiding principles of the decolonization process, as embodied in the relevant United Nations resolutions.

What Argentina unequivocally rejects is the manipulation of this key principle by a Member State, in favour of a population artificially implanted by that State on land taken from my country by force, land that forms part of Argentine territory.

Argentina is not alone in this line of reasoning. Whenever the United Kingdom has attempted to include references to the principle of self-determination in a resolution on this question, the General Assembly has categorically ratified the applicability of the principle of territorial integrity to the Malvinas Islands. The international community has thus been able to thwart this attempt to distort the principles and objectives of a General Assembly resolution.

We have no doubt regarding Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas; they are an indivisible part of Argentine territory, whose integrity the United Kingdom violated with the act of force perpetrated in 1833.

Recovery of full sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas is State policy and it reflects the collective wish, ever present and never relinquished, of the people of the Argentine nation. Nonetheless, we have expressed our willingness, on every occasion, to honour the obligation to resume the negotiations on sovereignty with the United Kingdom. This obligation applies to both parties.

Similarly, and as an unequivocal token of its commitment and constructive spirit, my Government has cooperated with the United Kingdom on practical aspects deriving from the de facto situation, with the due juridical protection and with the purpose of creating the framework that would allow both parties to resume the negotiations demanded by the international community.

In spite of this, the United Kingdom has committed numerous unilateral acts in the disputed area, acts that Argentina does not accept, that it has protested and that it will keep on protesting. Those unilateral acts undermine the bilateral cooperation agreed under the sovereignty formula and run counter not only to bilateral understandings but also to the relevant United Nations resolutions. Such unilateral acts include the illegal application of a quota regime on fisheries resources for a period of up to 25 years, the unlawful licensing of oil and gas activities as well as the British refusal to operate non-scheduled flights between mainland Argentina and the Malvinas Islands, despite the provisions of the Exchange of Notes Agreement of 23 February 2001, under the sovereignty formula. I must also mention the British attempt to include parts of Argentine national territory in its submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. I must also stress the inherent illegality of the United Kingdom's extension of the territorial application of international conventions to the disputed areas, and its attempts to promote the participation of the Islands in international organizations and forums as an entity separate from Argentina.

In addition to the above, the presence of a powerful military base built by the United Kingdom on the Islands, does not contribute in any way to building confidence bilaterally in the military sphere, and is disturbing the maintenance of peace and security in the South Atlantic, an endeavour to which we, the Southern Cone countries, on the other hand, are strongly committed.

There is no doubt that these acts violate the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to the dispute to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands are going through the process recommended by the United Nations.

I must also refer to the recent renewal of the colonial link between the British mainland and the Islands, in an attempt to give this link a supposed "constitutional" hierarchy. My country immediately protested the so-called "constitution" that the United Kingdom gave the Islands in November 2008, as this is a unilateral act by the United Kingdom related to an integral part of Argentine national territory and contravenes, once more, the resolutions of the United Nations. It also attempts to disguise, under the pretence of a supposed "modern" or "post-colonial" constitutionalism, the special and unique colonial situation resulting from the seizure of Argentine territory by force, the expulsion of the local population and its replacement by a British one, and attempts to define the latter as a population to which the principle of self-determination is applicable.

Accordingly, any attempt designed to grant "constitutions" or to foster notions of "self-government", under the supervision of the mother country, to colonial populations, made up of the subjects of the occupying power, is also irrelevant in terms of decolonization and only violates the mandate of the United Nations.

We will again reiterate well-known arguments. We must do so because the United Kingdom refuses to assume an international obligation and seeks to justify itself by capricious interpretations of principles, that were designed to bring justice to oppressed peoples, not to perpetuate injustice.

How can we even comprehend that such an unwavering refusal should come from one of the permanent members of the Security Council, the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security? How is it possible for it to be that same country, which joins in condemning countries that ignore resolutions of the General Assembly or the Security Council? Should we take it that, for certain countries, international obligations apply selectively?

We will definitely not accept that logic, and we know that the Committee will join us, again, in calling on Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume, once and for all, the negotiations that — if both parties show serious commitment — may bring us closer to the just and lasting solution that the United Nations desires.

At the beginning of my speech I made reference to the international situation. Today the international community firmly expects to be able to face the gravest challenges of the present times through a multilateral effort, founded on respect among nations and with the strong platform of international organizations.

Argentina believes — as do an overwhelming majority of nations — that we should work together in those areas that call for shared solutions, whether they be social, economic or human rights issues, or have to do with international security and non-proliferation.

We cannot and should not allow the continuation in the early days of the twenty-first century, of anachronistic situations relating to decolonization which drag us straight back to nineteenth century practices that can no longer be tolerated or defended as legitimate.

If the United Kingdom believes that the challenges of the international community should be confronted and resolved through dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, it should demonstrate that belief in the decolonization forums as resolutely as in any other.

Concerning the importance and value of dialogue, I would like to recall what the President of Argentina, Mrs. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, said when she announced, on 26 May 2009, that the relatives of the Argentine soldiers killed in the 1982 conflict would be travelling to the islands to inaugurate the memorial built at the Darwin cemetery, on Soledad Island.

She said that the diplomatic cooperation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom was the result of dialogue, had been the result of talks, and that it was a positive sign that dialogue and talks had led to that totally humanitarian act, whereby the relatives of Argentine combatants buried in the Malvinas would be able to travel to the Islands to inaugurate the memorial.

After five years of laborious exchanges, open and genuine dialogue has led the United Kingdom to realize that it is right for this trip to go ahead in the best way for the relatives themselves; it has ceased obstructing this justifiable desire of the Families Commission, within the framework of the provisional understandings in force, bilaterally adopted under the formula on sovereignty, which safeguard any and all aspects involved in the inauguration trip.

Argentina expects that the United Kingdom will pursue the path of dialogue in order to comply, once and for all, with what has been established by the international community in the many resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands. Argentina reiterates its permanent willingness to negotiate on the basis of international law, the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the many resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

We are certain that the work of the Committee will help us to make progress in the quest for a just and definitive solution to this anachronistic dispute.

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 114
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, I have the honour to convey to you the Yekaterinburg Declaration of the Heads of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, adopted at its Heads of States Council meeting, held on 15 and 16 June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda item 114.

(*Signed*) Murad **Askarov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Yekaterinburg Declaration of the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), pursuant to the meeting of the Council of Heads of State held on 15 and 16 June 2009, hereby declare the following:

1. Significant changes are taking place in today's international environment. Aspirations for peace and sustainable development and the promotion of equitable cooperation are the order of the day. The shift towards true multipolarity is irreversible. Greater emphasis is being given to the regional aspect when addressing global challenges.

SCO member States, reaffirming their commitment to co-development based on the principles and provisions of the charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Treaty for Long-term Good-Neighbourly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation of the States members of SCO, are giving high priority to maintaining constructive dialogue and enhancing close interaction and partnership in the joint efforts to seek effective ways of addressing global and regional challenges, making use of the growing potential and international recognition of SCO.

2. SCO member States consider international cooperation to be an essential instrument for addressing new challenges and threats, overcoming the global financial crisis, achieving energy and food security and resolving the urgent issue of climate change.

3. The global economic and financial situation highlights the need to strengthen the international community's cooperation in the area of control and governance of international finances, joint efforts to prevent the increase and risk contagion of the financial crisis and preserving economic stability.

The States members of the organization intend to make efforts, together with the global community to establish an international financial order that is more just, equitable, comprehensive and structured, taking into account the true balance of interests of all of its participants and offers all States equal access to the advantages of globalization.

In that regard, cooperation and information sharing should be strengthened as regards the international financial sector and efforts to address the consequences of the global financial crisis in the SCO region.

4. SCO member States emphasize the growing importance under the present circumstances of increasing economic, trade and investment cooperation in the context of the organization, including making use of the capacity of observer States and dialogue partners.

They noted the need to speed up the implementation of major projects that would expand the region's transport and communication capacities and offer access to world markets, develop social infrastructure, establish modern international centres for logistics, trade and tourism, build new enterprises and introduce innovative and energy-saving technologies, including those based on renewable energy sources.

The implementation of these projects, the establishment of international transport corridors, modernization of railways and highways will provide the prerequisites for strengthening the region's capacity as a transcontinental bridge and give new impetus to the development of economic links between Europe and Asia.

5. SCO member States, noting the crucial significance of the energy sector for successful economic development and creating an enabling environment for enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of their countries, express their determination to continue to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in this area on an equitable basis in order to ensure an effective, reliable, and environmentally sound energy supply.

6. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization believes there is a need for further strengthening of the legal basis of international relations, which is determined by generally accepted principles and norms of international law and international obligations of States.

Strengthening the central and coordinating role of the United Nations in world affairs and enhancing the effectiveness of its mechanisms with the aim of providing an adequate response to today's challenges and changing political and economic circumstances remains an urgent task. The reform of the United Nations Security Council should take place with as broad a consensus as possible among members of the international community.

SCO member States intend to strengthen coordination on issues relating to reform of the United Nations and its Security Council.

7. SCO member States emphasize the importance of ensuring international information security as a key element of the overall system of international security.

8. The States members of SCO, emphasizing their commitment to the dialogue of civilizations and the values of peace, tolerance, mutual respect and harmony in inter-ethnic and interfaith relations irrespective of ethnicity and religious or other views, have argued that the efforts to counter international terrorism should not be misconstrued as opposition to any religion.

9. Support for international peace is only possible in the conditions of equal security for all States without exception. The security of some States should not be achieved at the expense of the security of others.

International and regional conflicts should be settled by political and diplomatic measures on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

Attempts to achieve unilateral advantages in defence matters are counterproductive, undermine the global strategic balance and stability, and do not support confidence-building, weapons reduction and disarmament.

10. SCO member States note that the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a serious threat to international peace and security.

The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the basis for the international system for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Threats of proliferation of nuclear weapons can and should be addressed on the basis of the NPT with all parties to the Treaty complying unconditionally with their obligations. SCO member States confirm their strong support for the NPT, welcome the multilateral efforts to strengthen it, and are determined to move towards enhancing the effectiveness of the Treaty on the basis of the unity of its three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

SCO member States reiterate their intention to contribute to further implementation of the global initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States to counter acts of nuclear terrorism and also welcome the entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

11. SCO member States welcome the opening of negotiations between the Russian Federation and the United States for drafting a treaty to reduce strategic offensive arms.

12. SCO member States express support for resuming the negotiation process for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. They call for restraint to be exercised and for continued efforts to seek mutually acceptable solutions on the basis of prior agreements.

13. SCO member States express serious concern at the challenging situation in Afghanistan, with the general threats to the international community posed by the illegal narcotics trade, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In this connection, they recognize the need to enhance cooperation with observer States of the SCO, Afghanistan and other interested countries, and also regional and international organizations, in particular with the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

SCO member States intend to set up drug control and financial security belts in the region in close cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations.

14. SCO member States welcome the cessation of the internal armed conflict in Sri Lanka and express their hope for the establishment of lasting peace, strengthening of security and stability in the country on the basis of State sovereignty, territorial integrity and a guarantee of human rights for all ethnic and religious groups.

15. One priority area for SCO member States is enhancing the effectiveness of interaction to ensure a timely joint response to natural and man-made emergencies and the implementation of a set of measures to reduce their social and economic impact.

16. SCO member States attach great importance to strengthening cooperation for addressing the threat of dangerous infections and other infectious diseases. In that regard they acknowledge the need to make use of existing resources and to work together to prevent the spread of epidemics.

17. SCO member States declare that the organization has become an important element of the emerging security and cooperation system in the Asian-Pacific region.

Noting with satisfaction the growing interest of the international community in establishing links with SCO, they welcome the fact that the Republic of Belarus and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka have embarked on cooperation in the context of SCO as dialogue partners.

SCO member States express their readiness to expand practical interaction with the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific and other international and regional organizations and to form an extensive partnership network on that basis.

SCO member States are open to dialogue that supports the rapprochement of States, the building of a more equitable world order, and the strengthening of global stability and economic development.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

President of the People's Republic of China

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

President of the Russian Federation

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Sixty-third session
Agenda items 20, 41, 51, 79, 98 and 99

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

Globalization and interdependence

The rule of law at the national and international levels

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 2 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you circulate the attached Political Declaration on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 24 June 2009, as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 41, 51, 79, 98 and 99 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua

09-40004 (E) 240709 240709

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 2 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political Declaration on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America

Adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America

We, the undersigned:

Recognizing the Tegucigalpa Protocol as the main legal and political framework for Central American integration, its fundamental objective being to bring about the integration of Central America as a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

Reaffirming the principles of the sovereignty, independence and self-determination of our respective States and Governments, as well as the full effectiveness of, and compliance with, our respective legal systems as the basis for the cooperation that we develop with each other in all areas of regional integration and in the conduct of our relations with other States and international organizations;

Recognizing the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America as the legal and political framework for promoting the comprehensive implementation of all aspects of the democratic security model, and as an instrument supplementary to the Tegucigalpa Protocol;

Recognizing the Central American Security Commission as the subsidiary body for the implementation, coordination, assessment and follow-up, development of proposals and other goals set forth in the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America;

Recognizing the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico adopted at the Thirty-First Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Central American Integration System (SICA) as the basic instrument for the provision of comprehensive guidance with regard to the coordinated security measures adopted by countries of the region under their own legislation, by establishing the processes and activities required to provide greater security for individuals and property in the Central American region and Mexico, so that our peoples may achieve their human development goals;

Recalling the Thirty-Second Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of SICA, at which the costed plan of action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico was approved;

Convinced that drug abuse, the production of, and illicit traffic in, narcotic drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing, and the scourge of corruption, pose a threat to the security and political, economic and social development of our peoples;

Aware that such activities adversely affect the rule of law, democratic institutions and governance in our States;

Concerned at the scale of money-laundering and other related crimes in the region;

Deeply concerned at the serious problem of crime-related violence and gangs linked to organized criminal groups in the region, and fully aware of the importance of implementing comprehensive programmes that promote prevention, and the social reintegration and rehabilitation of former members of such groups as part of a global strategy to address the problem;

Recognizing the role that civil society and non-governmental organizations can play in preventing drug use and abuse in the region;

Taking into account the importance of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, and its three Protocols; and the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003 and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption of 1996;

Aware that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifty-second session, reviewed the implementation of the goals and targets set out in the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly and issued a Political Declaration and Plan of Action on the world drug problem;

Welcoming resolution 51/31 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which calls on Member States to respond to the threat posed by the distribution of internationally controlled drugs on the unregulated market;

Reaffirming also the commitments of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by consensus on 8 September 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly and constitutes the frame of reference for the international community in combating terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, as well as General Assembly resolution 62/172, adopted in December 2007;

Reaffirming the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation in criminal matters, particularly in the areas of extradition; mutual legal assistance; and the seizure and confiscation of proceeds from drug trafficking;

Recognizing the efforts made by our countries to combat drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, including within the Permanent Central American Commission on the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CCP), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE),

Stressing that preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and the financing of terrorism requires an integrated and balanced approach, which incorporates the principle of equitable and shared responsibility together with a renewed sense of commitment at the political level;

Welcoming the commitment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support the member countries of SICA, and in particular to support the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and its plan of action;

Recognizing the importance of the cooperation agreement signed between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the General Secretariat of SICA on 13 November 2008;

Recognizing that the Central American countries require resources additional to their national budgets for the implementation of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and its plan of action;

We declare the following:

1. We are fully committed to combating drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and terrorist financing; and to continuing to take effective action against the scourges that threaten the integral development of our peoples;

2. **We welcome** the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico, resolving to refer it to the Central American Security Commission for review and implementation within the framework of the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and of the institutions of SICA;

3. **We call on** those States members of SICA that have not already done so to incorporate into national legislation, as appropriate, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols; the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

4. **We call** on our member States to act in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions and urge those that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify or become parties to, the universal and inter-American counter-terrorism instruments;

5. **We urge** the Governments of SICA member countries to conduct awareness-raising campaigns for potential victims and the general public about the dangers of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, human trafficking and/or smuggling and for potential victims of violence, especially women and children, their families and the public at large;

6. **We recognize** the importance of law enforcement and international judicial assistance in combating illicit drug trafficking and transnational crime as well as the need to enhance border security in Central America;

7. **We request** UNODC to provide bilateral technical assistance to those countries that need it for the preparation and submission of their reports to the Security Council committees;

8. **We encourage** civil society and non-governmental organizations to join in the efforts to prevent violence and crime through the coordination of policies, strategies, plans and programmes that are of considerable benefit to society;

9. **We recognize** the importance of the Central American Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the context of the efforts to strengthen the relevant national and regional authorities and pave the way for the establishment of an effective control regime for such weapons, thus reducing the risk of the related illicit trafficking in arms and violence resulting therefrom;

10. **We request** UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance for full implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in coordination with other regional bodies;

11. **We recognize** the importance of regional cooperation and collaboration with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF/GAFI), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF/GAFIC), the South American Financial Action Group (GAFISUD) and other regional and international partner agencies with a view to reducing the risk of money-laundering and terrorist financing;

12. **We recognize** the fundamental role of education at all levels as the primary means of addressing the various manifestations of organized crime;

13. **We recognize** the importance of promoting integrity in the armed forces and other public entities in order to combat corruption and enhance the transparency of government agencies and of witness protection and victim assistance systems and mechanisms;

14. **We appeal** to UNODC to mobilize the international community, in coordination with the General Secretariat of SICA, to provide the additional financial resources needed for effective implementation of the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and the agreements on regional security signed by the Heads of State and Government of the countries members of SICA;

15. **We acknowledge** the importance of building the capacity of the member countries of SICA to prevent violence and crime through policies, strategies, plans and programmes developed under the legislation of each country; the involvement of civil society; and the strengthening of government institutions;

16. **We will promote** programmes to reduce demand for narcotic drugs and prevent drug abuse, as well as develop a programme to reduce the harmful effects of drug use on the health of the most vulnerable and high-risk groups in society through the Permanent Central American Commission on the Eradication of the Illicit Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (CCP);

17. **We will work** to harmonize HIV/AIDS policies at the national and regional level, as well as to implement programmes that provide drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services;

18. **We will strengthen** the institutions, mechanisms, and prison and post-release follow-up programmes that contribute to the social reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty, including those repatriated for having committed criminal acts, and to an improvement in prison facilities;

19. **We will increase** the forensic investigation and analysis capacity of the various bodies of the SICA member countries, within their respective areas of competence, so as to ensure a fully efficient criminal justice system;

20. **We take note** of the national integrated programmes presented at the Ministerial Conference and request UNODC to provide technical assistance to the countries in question for the finalization and subsequent implementation of the said programmes;

21. **We welcome** the establishment of a UNODC Regional Programme Office in Panama;

22. **We support** the establishment of centres of excellence in the Central American countries under the country programmes and the UNODC Programme for Strengthening the Plan of Action for the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico;

23. **We agree to bring** the outcome of this Conference to the attention of the Meeting of Presidents of SICA;

24. **We thank** the people and Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for their hospitality during this Conference.

(*Signed*) Carlos **Perdomo**
Minister of National Security
Belize

(*Signed*) Carlos A. **Castañeda**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
El Salvador

(*Signed*) Roberto **Campos**
Deputy Minister of National Defence
Guatemala

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Rosales**
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mario Eduardo **Perdomo Cerrato**
Deputy Minister of Security
and Mario **Cabañas**, Attorney General
Honduras

(*Signed*) Ana Isabel **Morales**
Minister of the Interior
Nicaragua

(*Signed*) Severino **Mejía**
Deputy Minister of the Interior and Justice
Panama

(*Signed*) Antonio **Picel Cabral**
Assistant Secretary of State for Interior and Police
Dominican Republic

(*Signed*) Raúl **López Lira**
Ambassador of Mexico to Nicaragua
Mexico

(*Signed*) Odemar **Madrigal**
Deputy Minister of Security
Costa Rica
(with observer status)

(*Signed*) Juan Daniel **Alemán**
SICA General Secretariat

United Nations A/63/926

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49
Report of the International Criminal Court

Letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am under instruction from my Government to forward to you the attached copy of the press release (containing Botswana's position on the Sirte African Union decision on the International Criminal Court) issued by the Government of Botswana regarding the decision of the African Union Summit held last week in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in which the African Union was condemnatory of the International Criminal Court and decided not to cooperate in the matter concerning the indictment of President Omar Al Bashir of the Sudan (see annex).

The Government of Botswana requests that the attached press release be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) C. T. **Ntwaagae**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

09-40161 (E) 150709

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Botswana has noted the decision of the African Union Summit recently held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to denounce the International Criminal Court and refuse to extradite President Omar Al Bashir of the Sudan.

The Government of Botswana does not agree with this decision and wishes to reaffirm its position that as a State party to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court, it has treaty obligations to fully cooperate with the Court in the arrest and transfer of the President of the Sudan to the International Criminal Court.

The International Criminal Court was established specifically to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, by for instance prosecuting those suspected of committing genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The people of Africa and the Sudan in particular have been victims of those crimes. Botswana strongly holds the view that the people of Africa, including the people of the Sudan, deserve to be protected from the perpetrators of such crimes. This is why a majority of African countries, numbering 30, are States party to the Rome Statute.

Gaborone, 4 July 2009

United Nations A/63/927–S/2009/358

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 44
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 13 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the Chair's summary of the L'Aquila Summit containing a synthesis of the discussions and of the documents adopted, from 8 to 10 July, by L'Aquila Group of Eight Summit (see annex).

As you know, seven documents were approved in the course of the three-day event: the G-8 Declaration on Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, the G-8 Declaration against Terrorism, the G-8 L'Aquila Declaration on Non-Proliferation, the joint Declaration on Promoting the Global Agenda, the Major Economies Forum Declaration on energy and the climate, the G-8/Africa Declaration on a Strengthened G-8/Africa Partnership on Water and Basic Sanitary Conditions and the joint Declaration on Global Food Security known as "L'Aquila Food Security Initiative".

The documents can be consulted on the website: www.g8italia2009.it.

I would highly appreciate it if the Secretariat would kindly arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Giulio **Terzi**
Ambassador

09-40469 (E) 210709

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Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Chair's summary

L'Aquila, 10 July 2009

The Group of Eight Summit was held in the city of L'Aquila from 8 to 10 July 2009 to show solidarity with the population of the region, severely hit by an earthquake on 6 April, and with all those around the world who have been touched by natural disasters.

G-8 leaders discussed the interlinked challenges of the economic crisis, poverty, climate change and international political issues. They shared a vision of a world economy that is open, innovative, sustainable and fair.

The following documents were adopted:

- G-8 Declaration "Responsible leadership for a sustainable future"
- G-8 L'Aquila Statement on Non-Proliferation
- G-8 Declaration on Counter-Terrorism
- Joint Declaration "Promoting the global agenda"
- Declaration of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate
- Joint G-8/Africa Statement "A stronger G-8/Africa Partnership on Water and Sanitation"
- Joint Statement on Global Food Security — "L'Aquila Food Security Initiative" (AFSI).

Leaders acknowledged that their action is strengthened by engaging with the major emerging economies. In 2007 the G-8 initiated a dialogue with Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, to build a common understanding on key issues on the global agenda. In L'Aquila, leaders decided to move forward together in the framework of a stable and structured partnership.

With this spirit, the Summit opened in the G-8 format, to later expand, starting from the second day, into progressively enlarged meetings.

On 8 July G-8 leaders met to discuss the world economy, development, climate change and international political issues. From 9 July they were joined by Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, establishing a structured and continued dialogue on a broad range of global issues. Egypt was also invited to participate in the meeting. Discussions progressed with the participation of heads of international organizations; all other members of the Major Economies Forum joined them to address trade and climate change. African leaders and G-8 partners discussed the implications of the crisis for Africa. Finally, in a broader format, leaders tackled the issue of food security.

Heiligendamm — L'Aquila Process

G-8 partners and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa reaffirmed their determination to work together to advance the global agenda and identify effective solutions to major challenges. This requires shared responsibility and collaborative efforts among the leading world economies to make progress collectively. To this end, leaders launched an enhanced, stable and structured cooperation on equal footing among them: the Heiligendamm-L'Aquila Process (HAP). Countries adhering to this process are committed to strengthening their mutual understanding and translating this common ground into tangible results, thereby contributing to enhancing global governance and jointly shaping the future.

Leaders, together with Egypt, discussed a global recovery agenda, future sources of growth and responsible development policies. They will work together to foster a balanced recovery taking into account appropriate adjustments in savings. Policies to improve social safety nets, including health care and education, as well as investments in infrastructure and innovation will contribute to a more balanced and sustainable growth model.

Trade

A concrete result of this partnership is significant progress on trade. Leaders stressed that open markets are key to economic growth and development — the more so in a period of crisis. Therefore, they reaffirmed their determination to resist protectionism and confirmed the standstill commitment adopted in Washington and London. Moreover, they agreed that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round will provide a major boost to restore confidence, support recovery and promote development. The time is ripe to unblock negotiations in order to reach an ambitious and balanced conclusion in 2010 on the basis of the progress already made, including with regard to modalities. To this end leaders mandated their Ministers in charge of trade to engage immediately to clarify and understand the negotiation to date and to meet before the Pittsburgh Summit, where they will report on progress achieved. Australia, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea also decided to join this effort.

World economy

G-8 leaders discussed the state of the world economy and the extraordinary measures taken. While noting signs of stabilization and improved confidence, they reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the decisions made at the Washington and London Summits. Policy action to support the world economy and repair the financial system will continue as long as needed to ensure sustainable and long-lasting growth. Reforms of financial regulations will be implemented swiftly, ensuring a level playing field. Leaders also committed to tackle the social dimension of the crisis, putting people's concerns first and promoting global action for employment and social protection.

The crisis has revealed the importance of propriety, integrity and transparency regarding the conduct of international business and finance, so as to strengthen business ethics. To this end, leaders have agreed on the need to develop common principles and standards, the "Lecce Framework", which builds on existing initiatives of OECD and other relevant international organizations and which will be brought to the next G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

International cooperation will be reinforced to fight corruption, tax evasion, money-laundering and terrorism financing, through strengthening the implementation of international standards, an expansion of the OECD Global Forum, a peer review process and the development of counter-measures to consider to use against non-cooperative jurisdictions not meeting these standards.

Looking beyond the crisis, leaders vowed to secure medium-term fiscal sustainability through preparing appropriate exit strategies. They are determined to set economic growth on a more solid, innovative, greener and sustainable path. Leaders also agreed on the need to address excessive price volatility in energy and agricultural products and to improve the functioning of global commodity markets, including through effective regulation and supervision of derivative markets, so as to enhance transparency and combat damaging speculation.

They stressed the importance of fostering an open, receptive climate for foreign investment and promoting innovation, while effectively tackling counterfeiting and piracy.

Climate change

Leaders agreed that effectively addressing climate change is urgent and sent a strong political message in view of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

Climate change was discussed both in the G-8 and in the Major Economies Forum formats.

In the G-8 session, leaders recognized the scientific view on the need to keep global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and agreed on a global long-term goal of reducing global emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2050 and, as part of this, on an 80 per cent or more reduction goal for developed countries by 2050. They also agreed on the need for significant midterm targets consistent with the long-term goals and for global emissions to reach their peak as soon as possible. The active engagement of all major emitting countries through quantifiable mitigation actions was highlighted, as an indispensable condition to successfully tackle climate change.

Leaders discussed the role of innovative technologies and climate financing, with a view to sustaining mitigation efforts also in developing countries. They highlighted adaptation needs of developing countries in terms of resources, capacity-building and policy support, particularly for the poor and most vulnerable.

The G-8 adopted a comprehensive declaration, which set the groundwork for a constructive discussion with the emerging economies the following day.

In the broader session, the 16 leaders of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, the European Commission, Sweden, Denmark and the United Nations Secretary-General, found an agreement on key pillars of the Copenhagen climate deal.

Leaders of all major emitting countries reiterated the importance of keeping the increase in average global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, as recognized by the G-8, and decided to work together between now and Copenhagen to identify a long-term global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050. Leaders agreed on the need for nationally appropriate mitigation actions by all

countries: developed countries will promptly undertake robust midterm emissions reductions, while developing countries will undertake actions to ensure meaningful deviation of emission levels from business as usual.

The key role of major economies in driving innovation was stressed and leaders launched a Global Partnership to further such efforts. There was agreement on substantially increasing public investments in research and development, with a view to doubling them by 2015. Underlining the role of the private sector and of international cooperation, leaders committed to remove barriers and create incentives to accelerate deployment, diffusion and transfer of low-carbon technologies.

There was broad agreement on the need to scale up climate financing, from public and private sources, including through carbon markets. Leaders discussed international funding arrangements, with particular attention to the proposal by Mexico for a Green Fund.

Participants adopted the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Declaration, paving the way for a comprehensive global agreement in Copenhagen, and agreed to continue to work together in the coming months.

Development and Africa

Leaders focused their discussion on the effects of the crisis on the most vulnerable. They decided to act resolutely to implement decisions to eradicate poverty and hunger. Acknowledging that the crisis is jeopardizing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, they asked for an international assessment in 2010 on what is needed to achieve these Goals. They reiterated their commitment to promote global health and expressed their solidarity for all vulnerable people and countries in the face of the global H1N1 threat and the importance of supporting developing countries with respect to anti-viral medicines, vaccines, and other preventive measures.

They decided to implement a set of measures to help the most vulnerable to withstand the crisis: fulfil their ODA commitments, including on aid for trade; keep markets open to relaunch economic growth to the benefit of the poor; enhance transparency and competition among intermediaries to halve the transaction cost of migrants' remittances; strengthen partnership with Africa to improve access to water and sanitation; support innovative financing instruments for health; and put agriculture and food security at the top of the agenda, by increasing multilateral financing to support comprehensive country strategies and improving coordination of existing mechanisms.

Leaders recognized that increasing aid without ensuring its quality will not have a real impact on development in the long run. They reaffirmed their determination to implement the Accra Agenda for Action. Moreover, building on the Monterrey Consensus, they agreed to promote a comprehensive, "whole of country" approach, to ensure stronger policy coherence, and the mobilization of all actors, policies and financial resources.

In reaffirming their development commitments, they published a preliminary accountability report and decided to develop a fully fledged accountability mechanism to monitor progress and strengthen the effectiveness of their actions. A

first accountability report will be submitted at the Muskoka G-8 Summit (Canada 2010).

Group of Eight and Africa

On 10 July, the G-8 met with Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, the African Union Commission and relevant international organizations. Leaders resolved to act swiftly to limit the impact of the crisis on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. They confirmed respective commitments for sustainable development, including with respect to ODA, climate change and peace and security. For the first time, leaders issued a joint G-8/Africa statement, expressing their determination to build a stronger partnership to increase access to water and sanitation.

Food security

Concerned by the increasing number of undernourished people and inadequate levels of investments in agriculture, on the same day leaders of 40 States and heads of international organizations convened to unite efforts for hunger eradication. A joint statement outlined their common vision and approach to global food security. They committed to mobilize US$ 20 billion over three years through L'Aquila Food Security Initiative in support of rural development in poor countries. Leaders further promoted the advancement of the Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security, to keep agriculture at the core of the international agenda, relaunch investments and boost aid efficiency and in-country coordination, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

International political issues

The G-8 leaders expressed serious concern about recent developments in Iran. They deplored post-electoral violence in the country, interference with media, unjustified detentions of journalists and arrests of foreign nationals. They warned that Embassies in Iran must be permitted to exercise their functions effectively, and stressed their commitment to find a diplomatic solution to Iran's continued failure to meet its international obligations with regard to its nuclear programme. They condemned the declarations of President Ahmadinejad denying the Holocaust.

Building on the recent developments in United States-Russia relations on disarmament, leaders underscored the central importance of the regime established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the commitment to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. The United States will convene a conference in spring 2010 aiming to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world, and leading to the revision of the Treaty.

Looking forward to a comprehensive peace between Israel and all its neighbours, the leaders reiterated their full support to the two-State solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and urged the parties to rapidly resume direct negotiations. They also called on them to fulfil their obligations under the road map. G-8 leaders remained engaged to fully support the Palestinian Authority including, once a peace agreement is reached, through the launching of an ambitious and comprehensive plan that would develop infrastructure and foster economic activities in the future Palestinian State.

Leaders condemned in the strongest terms the recent nuclear test and ballistic launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from further provocations and to engage for the early resumption of the Six-Party talks.

Leaders confirmed their willingness to assist the Afghan and the Pakistani Governments in meeting their respective challenges with regard to economic and social development, good governance, combating corruption, terrorism and illicit trafficking. The importance of closer regional cooperation in the area was also stressed.

They also discussed piracy and the need to build capacity in the Horn of Africa to better control coasts and territorial waters. They discussed transnational organized crime as well as the fight against terrorism, stressing the challenges of countering radicalization, recruitment and terrorism financing. G-8 commitment to build peacekeeping/peacebuilding capacity globally was renewed, particularly with a focus on developing African-led peace support operations.

The Government of Myanmar was also called on to release all political prisoners in order to prevent undermining the credibility of the elections planned in 2010.

Leaders welcomed the offer of Canada to host the next Summit at Muskoka in Canada in 2010.

United Nations A/63/928

General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 20
The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 14 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In Portugal's capacity as President of the Community of Democracies, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on Honduras, adopted by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies, held in Lisbon on 12 July 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Lobo de Mesquita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-40541 (E) 170709

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Annex to the letter dated 14 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies

Declaration on Honduras

The Community of Democracies,

Expressing its grave concerns at the political situation in Honduras, a participant of the Community of Democracies, and the overthrow of its constitutionally elected President,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect and uphold the specific principles and provisions agreed to in the Community of Democracies ministerial conferences and to implement the actions thereof and, in particular, its resolve jointly to cooperate to discourage and resist the threat to democracy posed by the overthrow of constitutionally elected governments,

Welcoming the pronouncements on the matter by the United Nations General Assembly, the Organization of American States and the European Union,

Condemns the overthrow of the constitutionally elected President of the Republic of Honduras, Mr. José Manuel Zelaya, and calls for respect for democratic order, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Calls on all relevant actors and institutions to refrain from violence and to strive to find a swift and peaceful solution to the current situation,

Expresses its support for the mediation led by President Óscar Árias, as well as by the Organization of American States and other regional efforts, and calls on all actors to facilitate these efforts, so as to allow for the re-establishment of internal democratic order.

Lisbon, 12 July 2009